

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 DPW-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 /092 W

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R 110735Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9810

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 20739

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS VS

SUBJECT: GAO AND CIVILIAN PRISONER ISSUE

REF: STATE 239793

1. WE WILL NOT RESPOND TO REFTEL UNTIL POUCHED MATERIAL ARRIVES AND WE HAVE A CHANCE TO STUDY IT AND COMPARE WITH OTHER MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS TO DETERMINE HOW IT FITS IN WITH OBVIOUSLY UPCOMING WORLD WIDE NEW PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE.

2. SINCE MOST OF THE WESTERN PRESS HAS EITHER TIRED OF THIS ISSUE OR HAVE RECOGNIZED IT FOR THE PROPAGANDA IT IS AND REFUSED TO TREAT IT SERIOUSLY WE HAVE BEEN WONDERING WHAT NEW INITIATIVES WOULD SURFACE AFTER THE RETURN OF DON LUCE AND CORA WEISS FROM THE DRVN. WE ARE HOWEVER SURPRISED THAT THE GAO WOULD ONCE AGAIN PERMIT ITSELF TO BE USED IN AN EFFORT WHICH CAN ONLY PROGRESSIVELY ERODE ITS REPUTATION AND THE INTEGRITY OF ITS PROPER FUNCTIONS.

3. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ANOTHER GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS ARE CONSIDERING REQUESTING THE GAO TO MAKE A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPAGANDA MECHANISMS EMPLOYED BY THE DRVN AND ITS SYMPATHIZERS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE ARE VIOLATIONS OF THE STATUTES REGARDING LOBBYING AND FAILURE TO REGISTER THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND

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DIRECT CONNECTIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER NON U.S.

ORGANIZATIONS. INCLUDED IN THE SCOPE OF SUCH REQUESTED INVESTIGATION WOULD BE AN EXAMINATION OF THE CONNECTION OF SUCH GROUPS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFFS ON THE THEORY THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE THOROUGHLY INFORMED OF INFLUENCES BEARING ON THE INTEGRITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

4. IF SUCH A REQUEST TO THE GAO DOES IN FACT MATERIALIZE THE GAO MIGHT WISH TO COMBINE BOTH REQUESTS INTO A SINGLE INVESTIGATION. IF THIS WERE DONE THERE JUST POSSIBLY MIGHT BE A CHANCE THAT THE GVN WOULD AGREE TO COOPERATE WITH THE GAO ON THE KIND OF INVESTIGATION THAT CONGRESSMAN TIERNAN APPARENTLY CONTEMPLATES.

5. IF NOT WE WOULD ANTICIPATE COMPLETE REFUSAL OF THE GVN TO COOPERATE IN ANY WAY WITH WHAT IS SO TRANSPARENTLY A PROPAGANDA EXERCISE. IN NO CASE COULD THEY BE EXPECTED TO PERMIT GAO "ACCESS TO PRISONS OF THEIR CHOICE", OR TO INTERVIEW PRISONERS. THE GVN WOULD BE COGNIZANT THAT YIELDING TO SUCH A REQUEST WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE TRUMPED BY THE OTHER SIDE AS CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT THE GVN WAS A "COLONIAL REGIME" COMPLETELY SUBSERVIENT TO ITS U.S. MASTERS. EVEN A COMPLETELY NEGATIVE REPORT WHICH THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM WOULD WARRANT, COULD NOT ALLAY THE DAMAGING EFFECT OF THIS CHARGE, BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY.

6. THE PROPER COURSE FOR THE DEPARTMENT IT SEEMS TO US, WOULD BE TO INFORM THE GAO THAT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION WOULD BE WHOLLY IMPROPER FOR THE GAO TO UNDERTAKE AND THAT THE GAO SHOULD SO INFORM THOSE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS REQUESTING IT ADDING THAT THE QUERY SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OTHER SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS WOULD GIVE A PROPER RESPONSE.

7. WE REITERATE THAT WE WILL GIVE EMBASSY RESPONSE AFTER WE RECEIVE THE POUCHED MATERIAL REFERRED TO IN REFTEL. DEPARTMENT MAY IN ITS DISCRETION MAKE THIS MESSAGE AVAILABLE TO THE GAO.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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